

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 30-55 are pending in the application.

Claim 17-29 have been cancelled.

Claims 32-55 have been added.

Restriction Requirement

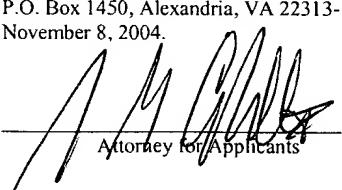
The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

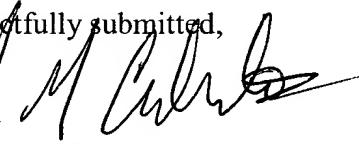
Group I. Claims 1-16, 30 and 31, drawn to the Multiple levels of multiplexing to form a multiplex hierarchy, classified in class 370, subclass 541.

Group II. Claims 17-29, drawn to the Bridge or gateway between networks, classified in class 370, subclass 401.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, the applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute claims 1-16 and 30-31, drawn to the Multiple levels of multiplexing to form a multiplex hierarchy, classified in class 370, subclass 541.

Please cancel claims 17-29 without prejudice to the subject matter disclosed therein.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 8, 2004.	
	11/8/04
Attorney for Applicants	Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


Samuel G. Campbell III
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 42,381
Telephone: (512) 439-5084
Facsimile: (512) 439-5099